TOM STEADY,

A PRETTY HISTORY

FOR GOOD CHILDREN.

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NO. XI.

This is the cottage where Tom Steady lived. I am going to tell you his history. In the first place, I have to say that he was kind to his sisters. When little boys are kind to their sisters, I have generally found that the little girls tried to make their brothers happy. "He that loveth God, loveth his brother also."

Tom was not only kind to his sisters, but he was kind to the poor and the miserable. Here he is supplying the wants of a poor woman with a little babe, whose husband had just died of intemperance, and left her without a home; and he will find, in due time, that "he that giveth to the poor, lendeth to the Lord."

Tom Steady had been taught that whatever he did, he should try to do it well. "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might." When he was at school he learned his lesson quick and well—when he was employed about any thing else he took pains with it—and when at play, he was cheerful and active.

You have been told that Tom was an industrious lad, and here you see he is catching fish for his dinner. This is commendable; but to torture the poor animals for sport, is cruel. Tom not only assists his mother in this way, but he also helps to take care of the cattle and feeds the poultry. It is a sad thing for children to be idle.

There are Tom and his sister walking to church together. I have seen children push each other about as they walked to the house of God; but it was a very sad sight. Remember,

Christ reigns on high in heaven above;
And from his heavenly throne
He sees what children dwell in love,
And marks them for his own.

Little boys and girls should try to understand their lessons, and always ask their parents or teaehers to tell them the meaning of what they read. Tom did so; and by this means he knew more than almost any boy of his age; and when he became a man he was beloved and respected.

Tom was very fond of playing at proper times, but he always learned his lesson first. He is going to play at cricket, but you see he has stopped to repeat his lesson to his sister, that it may be ready for to-morrow morning. That is the way to be first in the class.

Do not you think Tom looks very happy? He can play with a light heart, because he has learned his lesson for to-morrow, and has done all he could to help his parents to-day, and they have given him liberty to play awhile with his school-fellows. He will not overstay his time, but will return at the hour his mother bade him. He remembers where it is said, "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right."

One day Tom's father sent him on an errand to 'Squire Stedfast's. He did his errand so well that the 'Squire thought he might trust him to go to a neighboring town on business for himself. So when Tom had obtained his father's consent to go, the 'Squire lent him his horse to ride on. Tom did the business just as the 'Squire wished, and came back in season, which pleased the 'Squire very much.

One day Tom and his little brother were passing by where the 'Squire had fixed a telescope, and was looking at something a great way off. He saw Tom look very wishfully at the glass, and he called him, and told him to look through it, and asked him several questions, which Tom answered very properly.

The 'Squire was so pleased with all he heard and saw of Tom, that he asked him what trade he wished to learn. Tom said he should like to be a watchmaker, if his father was willing. So the 'Squire called one day and spoke to Tom's father, and told him he knew a respectable man in that trade, and would endeavor to obtain a situation with him for his son.

Tom's father and mother were very much obliged to the 'Squire, and Tom was sent to the watchmaker. Before he went, his mother gave him some good advice how to conduct himself. She told him to remember to pray to God every day for grace, and to entreat that he would direct him aright by the teaching of his Holy Spirit.

Tom understood what his mother meant. She had taught him from a child to read the Bible, like Timothy. It was his daily prayer that the Holy Spirit might teach him to understand it. Also that he might be enabled to look to Christ by faith for the pardon of his sins, and to love him, and keep his words.

Tom Steady never forgot to pray to God morning and evening. God was pleased to keep him in the right way. He was sober and industrious, and in the course of a few years got forward in the world. Remember that it was by divine grace his heart was changed; and he was enabled to love God, and to delight in his ways.

Before thy sacred footstool see
We bend in humble prayer,
A happy little family,
To ask thy tender care.

May we in safety sleep to-night,
From every danger free,
Because the darkness and the light
Are both alike to thee.

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